



Blake Trask, Chair
Max Hepp-Buchanan, Vice Chair
Ann Boyd
Allegra Calder
Jodi Connolly
Matthew Crane
Sean Cryan
Gabe Grijalva
Kelsey Jones-Casey
Neal Komedal
Anna Telensky
Jean White

Seattle Bicycle Advisory Board Meeting Minutes

Date/Time: May 4, 2011 / 6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.
Chair: Blake Trask
Vice Chair: Max Hepp-Buchanan
Recorder: Neal Komedal
Location: Seattle City Hall, L280

Minutes Distribution List:

See Attachment A

Members Present:

Ann Boyd; Allegra Calder; Jodi Connolly; Matthew Crane; Sean Cryan; Gabe Grijalva; Kelsey Jones-Casey; Neal Komedal; Blake Trask (Chair); Jean White

Members Absent:

Max Hepp-Buchanan (Vice Chair); Anna Telensky

Guests:

Ron Scharf, Seattle Department of Transportation (SDOT); Becca Aue, Seattle Parks Foundation; Michael Snyder, Cascade Bicycle Club Board of Directors; Devor Barton, Seattle Pedestrian Advisory Board (SPAB); Tom Fucoloro, Seattle Bike Blog; Doug Beeman

MEETING CALL TO ORDER

- Meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. by Blake Trask.

PUBLIC COMMENT

- Comments by members of the public:
 - Devor Barton introduced himself as the new liaison from the Seattle Pedestrian Advisory Board (SPAB). Before he joined SPAB, he was part of Beacon Bikes and Walks. Mentioned that at 11:30 a.m. on May 21, there will be a bike parade from Jefferson Park Community Center to Lewis Park Natural Area for a party at 1:00 p.m. The event is in celebration of a Department of Neighborhoods grant.
 - Doug Beeman urged people to use the Ship Canal Trail rather than Nickerson St. He recently witnessed a serious bicycle-automobile collision at the corner of Queen Anne Ave and Nickerson St.

PRESENTATIONS

Time: 6:10 p.m.

Topic: Ballard Bridge Repainting – Travel Impacts

Presenters: Ron Scharf, Seattle Department of Transportation (SDOT)

The Seattle Bicycle Advisory Board shall advise the City Council, the Mayor, and all departments and offices of the city on matters related to bicycling, and the impacts which actions by the city may have upon bicycling; and shall have opportunity to contribute to all aspects of the city's planning processes insofar as they relate to bicycling.

-City Council
Resolution 25534

Purpose: Provide a briefing on traffic effects and detour options for cyclists

Findings / Critical Points:

- SDOT has an annual bridge painting program for its 20 steel bridges, making a 15 to 20 year cycle. They try to paint one large bridge and several small ones each year.
- Last year the contractor painted the approaches to the Ballard Bridge. There was a three week closure of the sidewalks, although much of the work was done from underneath.
- This summer the contractor will paint the bascules. Most of the work will be above grade, and access will be from the bridge deck.
- The sidewalks will be closed for six weeks, in each direction. There will be four full road closures on weekends from 3:00 a.m. to 6:00 a.m. on Saturday and 12:00 a.m. to 3:00 a.m. on Sunday.
- Bicycle detour routes will be the same as last year. A map of detour routes is available at: http://www.seattle.gov/transportation/bridgepainting_current.htm
- When the sidewalk is closed, there will be signs on the open side advising cyclists to walk their bikes across.

SBAB Comments/Questions:

- Q: Are there problems getting cyclists to comply with the walking requirement?
A: Not everyone complies, but it didn't create too many problems last year.
- Q: Will the project and its detours conflict with the Ship Canal Trail Extension?
A: Right now the contractor on the Ship Canal Trail extension is replacing the water line. That work will be finished before the bridge painting starts, so there shouldn't be a conflict.
- Q: Will the Chittenden Locks detour route have extended hours for bicycle and pedestrian crossings?
A: No.

SBAB Recommendations:

- Chittenden Locks crossing hours should be posted with the detour information.

Action Item or Follow-Up:

- Contact Ron Scharf, Project Manager, at ron.scharf@seattle.gov or (206) 684-5192.

Time: 6:25 p.m.

Topic: Bands of Green Update

Presenter: Becca Aue, Seattle Parks Foundation

Purpose: Provide SBAB with an update on the Foundation's Bands of Green project

Findings / Critical Points:

- The Seattle Parks Foundation (not to be confused with the Seattle Parks Department) is ten years old. It exists to advocate for parks and green space.
- In 1990, the director of the Seattle Parks Department was Holly Miller. She asked the Cedar River Group to compose a plan for Seattle's urban green space. In 2006, the same group was asked to update the plan. That effort produced more than 50 proposals for trails, boulevards, and linear parks throughout Seattle. Last year, the Seattle Parks Foundation felt another update was needed.

- Examples of what has been accomplished since 2006 include progress on planning and design of the Cheshiahud Loop and the Lake to Bay Loop trails (the latter was originally named the Potlatch Trail).
- New and potential allies include Seattle Children’s and neighborhood planning groups like those in Beacon Hill, Othello, and Wallingford.
- The plan identified several issues and opportunities:
 - Missing links in the regional trails network, such as the Burke Gilman “Missing Link”, the Ship Canal Trail, the Ballard Bridge, and the Duwamish Trail connection to the Green River and Interurban Trails.
 - “Bands of Gray”, trails which are anything but park-like in character, like the Cheshiahud Loop, the Interbay Trail, and parts of the Duwamish Trail.
 - Connections with parks, for example Magnuson Park and Gasworks Park.
 - The need for new types of green connections and the opportunity to provide support for neighborhood groups. Neighborhood Greenways are developing rapidly, seeking to provide facilities for families, young and old cyclists, and other “willing but worried” trail users. Some projects incorporate drainage designs which enhance the routes while helping to mitigate combined sewer overflows.
- The Seattle Parks Foundation functions as a fundraiser, advocate, researcher, planner, diplomat and intermediary. The consultants recommend:
 - That the Foundation take a leading role in introducing neighborhood greenways as a new type of green connection.
 - Expansion of the Neighborhood Parks Program and encouragement of community organizations through grants and other fiscal sponsorship.
 - To help City departments create a Memorandum of Understanding which defines the actions of each partner.
 - The Foundation should work with the Port of Seattle to improve sections of the regional trail network on their property.
 - That the Foundation take every opportunity to help the City complete gaps in the regional trail network.

SBAB Comments/Questions:

- Q: Are you developing trail standards?
A: No.
- Q: What’s the status of road closure programs like Bicycle Sunday?
A: They are declining due to budget cuts.
- Q: What is the connection between trail projects and natural drainage?
A: They aren’t directly related, but they sometimes complement each other as design elements.
- Seattle Parks Foundation’s political resources are needed and welcomed by cyclists. The perception of a “war on cars” puts a great deal of pressure on SDOT.
- Neighborhood Greenways may not function the same way in every city. Portland and Vancouver BC have taken different approaches to bicycling networks. Seattle’s geographical constraints might require a particular combination of facilities.

Action Item or Follow-Up:

- The Seattle Parks Foundation should take part in the discussions of the SR 99 South Portal design, specifically on property issues in the S King St to S Holgate St area. It could end up resembling the Interbay Trail, inadequate and squeezed between the Port of Seattle and Burlington Northern Railroad.

- Missing links in the trail network are often on the SBAB agenda. We should take these opportunities to work together.
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Time: 7:10 p.m.

Topic: SDOT Update

Presenter: Doug Cox, SDOT

Purpose: Update SBAB on SDOT's plans for BMP implementation in 2011

Findings / Critical Points:

- The Mountain to Sound Trail extension from the Jose' Rizal Bridge to S Holgate St should begin construction in June, and be completed in August.
- Construction of the Thomas St overpass will begin in June.
- In late May, there will be a hearing on the appeal to stop completion of the Burke Gilman Trail's "Missing Link".
- The "Wall of Death", a dangerous intersection of skateboarders, bicycles and pedestrians in the Burke Gilman Trail under the University Bridge, has been given a treatment with prepared curb stops to discourage skateboarding.
- The website for Linden Ave N corridor Improvements (<http://seattle.gov/transportation/linden.htm>) shows revised plans and updates on the project.
- Rechannelization of NE 125th St, from Roosevelt Way NE to 28th Ave NE, has begun. There will be sharrows installed from 28th Ave NE to 30th Ave NE.
- Work has started on a contra-flow bike lane on what is now called Seattle Blvd S, from 6th Ave S to Airport Way S.
- SDOT will install a bike facility on 9th Ave between Seneca St and Spruce St.
- Sharrows and a signed bike route on 14th Ave will connect Pine St and Union St.
- King County Metro received a grant to improve bus service. They plan to make Howell St one-way northbound. There will be two rows of sharrows and off-peak curbside parking. The intersection at Stewart St has an awkward provision for bicyclists continuing on toward Eastlake.

SBAB Comments/Questions:

- Q: What is the current plan for detours in Myrtle Edwards Park during the construction of the Thomas Street Overpass?
A: Work in the park has been postponed until after Hempfest in August.
- SBAB questions whether the bike box at the intersection of Howell Street and Stewart Street should be extended.
- SBAB believes that the Howell Street project is being undertaken in haste. It appears to meet the needs of Metro Transit, without much consideration of other modes.

SBAB Recommendations:

- In light of the Howell Street project, the relationship and limitations of bus-only lanes and bike lanes should be more clearly defined and indicated.

Action Item or Follow-Up:

- Consult Ethan Melone about the possible effects of a Spruce Street bike facility on the First Hill Streetcar cycle track design.
- SDOT Director Peter Hahn has called for a meeting to discuss the changes on Howell Street with representatives of the Bicycle, Pedestrian, and Freight Advisory Boards.

Time: 7:50 p.m.

***Topic:* Closing Thoughts and Next Steps**

Purpose: Follow-up discussion of SBAB 2011 workplan

- It is a good time to review and comment on the Broadway cycle track design. The work is at the 30 percent design stage around Swedish Hospital, less in other areas. Gabe and Max will try to arrange for an update to the board.
- Blake handed out a list of SDOT's construction projects for 2011. He asked for comments by the end of the week.
- The Mercer West work group will meet next week. It will be the second follow-up meeting to consider connections in and through the project area.
- Councilmember Tom Rasmussen expressed interest in the Board's response to the CTAC III request for help in prioritizing use of vehicle license fee funds.
- There will be a meeting on May 26th at the West Seattle Senior Center to work on plans for the West Seattle triangle. Matt suggested that SBAB members show up an hour early, if possible, to talk about the project.
- Gabe is trying to arrange a presentation to the board by Sound Transit to give details of their plans to reconfigure the Montlake triangle.

MEETING ADJOURNMENT

Blake Trask adjourned the meeting at 8:00 p.m.

ATTACHMENT A

May Meeting Minutes Distribution List:

Michael McGinn, Mayor, City of Seattle

Rebecca Deehr, Strategic Advisor for Policy and Outreach, Office of the Mayor

City Councilmember Tom Rasmussen, Transportation Committee Chair

Peter Hahn, Director, Seattle Department of Transportation (SDOT)

Sam Woods, Manager, Bicycle, Pedestrian & Neighborhood Program & Project Development, SDOT

Diane Sugimura, Director, Department of Planning and Development (DPD)

Bernie Agor Matsuno, Interim Director, Department of Neighborhoods (DoN)

Doug Cox, Assistant Transportation Planner, SDOT Liaison

Eric Widstrand, Traffic Operations Manager, SDOT

Meeting Presenters: Ron Scharf, SDOT; Becca Aue, Seattle Parks Foundation

City of Seattle Council Transportation Committee Members

City of Seattle Neighborhood District Coordinators

Seattle Bicycle Advisory Board (SBAB) Board Members

Individual Meeting Attendees